

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JULY 2, 2014

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 160

Introduced by Assembly Member Gordon
*(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Lowenthal, Muratsuchi,
Skinner, and Ting)*

June 10, 2014

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 160—Relative to sea level rise.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 160, as amended, Gordon. Sea level rise.

The measure would encourage state agencies to communicate with the public, local, regional, and federal agencies; and nonprofit organizations and businesses, regarding the risks of sea level rise and the development and implementation of adaptive and protective measures to address those risks, and other impacts of climate change. This measure would encourage the Ocean Protection Council to work with the California Coastal Zone Management Agencies, the State Lands Commission, other state agencies, and nonstate partners to consider establishing goals and planning principles to help prepare the state’s shoreline and coastal community for the impacts of climate change, including sea level rise.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, The sea is rising and weather is becoming more
- 2 extreme. In fact, the county’s longest continuously operating gauge
- 3 of sea level, at Fort Point in San Francisco Bay, recorded a
- 4 seven-inch rise in sea level over the 20th century; and

1 WHEREAS, As a result of California's changing climate, sea
2 level rise is projected to accelerate during this century. A 2012
3 report from the National Research Council found that the average
4 sea level rise projections for California are an additional six inches
5 by 2030, 12 inches by 2050, and 36 inches by 2100; and

6 WHEREAS, Three quarters of the state's 38 million people live
7 near California's 1,100 miles of coastline and San Francisco Bay's
8 additional 500-mile shoreline; and

9 WHEREAS, Among those affected by sea level rise are large
10 numbers of low-income people and communities of color who are
11 especially vulnerable; and

12 WHEREAS, Coastal waters, waterfronts, bays, ports, harbors,
13 marinas, wetlands, estuaries, riparian areas, and beaches are
14 important environmental and economic resources of California;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Sea level rise and other extreme *weather* events
17 threaten water supply and California's agriculture by causing
18 saltwater intrusion into the state's freshwater sources, including,
19 but not limited to, the Delta and coastal aquifers; and

20 WHEREAS, Critical existing infrastructure in California,
21 including, but not limited to, roads, hospitals, schools, emergency
22 facilities, wastewater treatment plants, and power plants, and new
23 development on the coast and on the San Francisco Bay is
24 vulnerable to sea level rise; and

25 WHEREAS, Sea level rise threatens public access to the coast
26 and its recreational areas; and

27 WHEREAS, Beaches, wetlands, streams, and other natural
28 habitats that benefit wildlife and communities along the coast
29 require protection, restoration, and enhancement due to the effects
30 of sea level rise; and

31 WHEREAS, The Assembly Select Committee on Sea Level
32 Rise and the California Economy was established last year to
33 thoroughly review the challenges ahead in addressing the expected
34 impacts of sea level rise on the state and its economy; and

35 WHEREAS, The Assembly Select Committee on Sea Level
36 Rise and the California Economy held four hearings throughout
37 the state to examine the effect of sea level rise on various sectors
38 and industries. Topics at those hearings included projected impacts
39 on coastal ~~agricultural~~, *agriculture*, the fishing and ~~aquacultural~~
40 *aquaculture* industry, tourism, ports, airports, roads and bridges,

1 and water and power infrastructure, and an examination of
2 infrastructure. The committee also examined the existing authority
3 of state agencies regarding the state's preparedness and response
4 to anticipated sea level rise; and

5 WHEREAS, State agencies have already begun to address this
6 critical issue. For example, in December 2013, the Natural
7 Resources Agency released a draft of the Safeguarding California
8 Plan for reducing climate risk that identified climate risks to
9 California's oceans, coastal ecosystems, and coastal resources and
10 provided state guidance for reducing those risks; and

11 WHEREAS, State, local, and private action is needed to plan
12 and design for coastal resiliency and long-term coastal
13 sustainability; and

14 WHEREAS, State, local, and private action is needed to protect
15 public health and safety and public and private coastal and San
16 Francisco Bay infrastructure, ports, public facilities and services,
17 jobs, and economic assets; and

18 WHEREAS, State, local, and private action to protect coastal
19 resources from the impacts of climate change may provide
20 additional public benefits, including, but not limited to, flood
21 protection, improved water quality, and increases in fish and
22 wildlife for food and recreation; and

23 WHEREAS, Although adapting to sea level rise and other
24 extreme impacts of climate change will be expensive, that price
25 will be far lower than the alternative of waiting and reacting to
26 these impacts as they occur; and

27 WHEREAS, Extensive cooperation between state, local, and
28 private entities is needed to adequately respond to the effects sea
29 level rise and climate change; now, therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature encourages the Ocean
32 Protection Council, in its convening role, to work with the
33 California Coastal Zone Management Agencies (the Coastal
34 Commission, the San Francisco Bay Conservation and
35 Development Commission, and the State Coastal Conservancy),
36 the State Lands Commission, other state agencies, and non-state
37 partners to consider establishing coastal climate adaptation goals
38 and planning principles to help prepare the state's shoreline and
39 coastal communities for the impacts of climate change, including
40 sea level rise, coastal erosion, and extreme storm-related events.

1 The establishment of these goals and planning principles would
2 implement a recommendation from the Safeguarding California
3 Plan to form a state coastal leadership group on sea level rise to
4 help guide state activities, enhance agency coordination, and
5 facilitate adaptation strategies; and be it further

6 *Resolved*, That state agencies are encouraged to engage and
7 communicate with the public; local, regional, and federal agencies;
8 and nonprofit organizations and businesses regarding the risks of
9 sea level rise and the development and implementation of adaptive
10 and protective measures; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
12 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.

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15 **CORRECTIONS:** _____

16 **Digest—Page 1.**

17 **Text—Pages 2 and 3.** _____